

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 5, 2005 the Examiner noted that claims 1-4 and 6-40 were pending, allowed claims 1, 4 and 6-38 and rejected claims 2, 3, 39 and 40. Claims 2, 3, 39 and 40 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 14 and 6-40 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Floeder. In an Interview with the Examiner of July 14, 2005 it was clarified that the invention of claims 2, 3, 39 and 40 processes a gray scale image to obtain the binary (plotted/background) image which is different from Floeder as acknowledged by the Examiner in agreeing to withdraw the final Action in view of this response.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested. If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

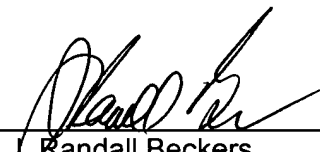
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

8/5/5

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